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# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

## CYCLE SAFETY INFO

National Resource Office
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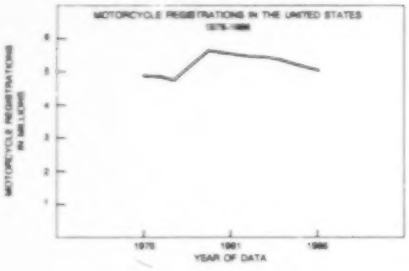
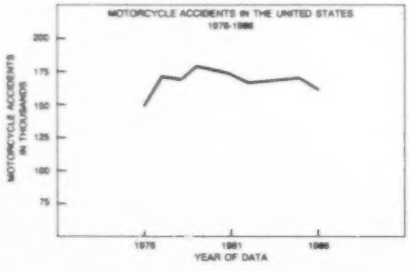
# MOTORCYCLE STATISTICS — 1986

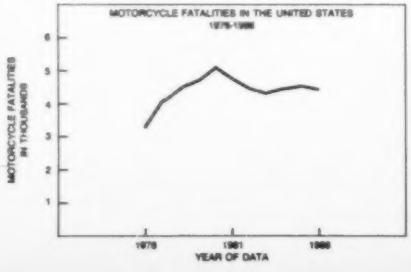
In 1986, there were decreases in both motorcycle accidents and motorcycle fatalities. Accidents decrease by 5.3% and fatalities by 2.7%. While motorcycle accidents and fatalities had begun to turn up during 1983-1985, these recent declines are an indication that downward trends in motorcycle accidents and fatalities started around 1980 are continuing. Statistics are obtained directly from all 50 states and the District of Columbia; projections are based on historical trends when figures are not available.

In 1986, there were 163,382 motorcycle accidents and 4,505 fatalities compared to 172,611 accidents and 4,628 fatalities in 1985.

The ratio of motorcycle accidents per 10,000 registered motorcycles was 325.22, a decrease of 1.7% from 1985. The ratio of fatalities per 10,000 registrations was 8.97, up slightly by 1.1% from 1985. The ratio of fatalities per 100 accidents increased somewhat to 2.76, up 3.0% from 1985.




For 1986, the number of registered motorcycles in the United States was 5,023,780 — a drop of 3.7% from 1985. Motorcycle registrations, which have decreased each of the last 6 years, are 11.6% below their peak of 1980.

### ABOUT THE DATA

In making use of these data, keep in mind that some figures are MSF projections, since some states did not have accident figures available. Figures provided by the states may include both motorcycles and vehicles such as mopeds or motorized tricycles. The property damage threshold, which is the basis for reporting accidents to the police, also varies from state to state. Accidents with only minor property damage often are not reported.

### ACCIDENT REDUCTION MEASURES

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation, National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration and American Motorcyclist Association support the concepts of motorcycle rider education and quality licensing programs as motorcycle accident countermeasures. All three organizations also recommend the use of helmets and other protective clothing to reduce injuries when an accident does occur.

In recent years, AMA, NHTSA and MSF have been involved in projects to educate motorcyclists on the risks of alcohol and drug use when operating a motorcycle. MSF is distributing a film on motorcycling and alcohol use called "Riding Straight" to interested schools, community groups and recreational facilities on a free-loan basis.

In 1986, over 72,000 persons throughout the United States completed novice and experienced rider education courses meeting or exceeding MSF classroom, on-cycle curriculum requirements. Approximately 44,000 students trained were civilian and 28,000 military. Nearly 570,000 students have been trained in MSF recognized rider education courses since the program's inception in 1974.

States have increasingly incorporated improved licensing towards reducing motorcycle accidents. To date, MSF has provided technical assistance in licensing improvements to 49 states and the District of Columbia.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's purpose is improving the safety of motorcyclists on the nation's streets and highways. In an attempt to reduce motorcycle accidents and injuries, the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and research. These programs are designed for both motorcyclists and motorists. A national, non-profit organization, MSF is sponsored by five motorcycle manufacturers: Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki and BMW.

# 1986 NATIONAL AND STATE MOTORCYCLE STATISTICS

| State Data — 1986 | Registrations | Reported Accidents | Accidents per 10,000 Registrations | Fatalities | Fatalities per 10,000 Registrations | Fatalities per 100 Accidents |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama (8,16,19,23,30) | 62,562 | 2,443 | 390.49 | 34 | 5.43 | 1.39 |
| Alaska (1,2,9,10,20,23,28) | 14,103 | 190 | 134.72 | 8 | 5.67 | 4.21 |
| Arizona (1,2,4-6,16,20,26,27) | 78,233 | 4,157 | 531.36 | 113 | 14.44 | 2.72 |
| Arkansas (1,9,19,24,28) | 28,844 | 1,163 | 403.20 | 28 | 9.71 | 2.41 |
| California (1,3,5,9,12,20,23,27) | 699,239 | 31,230 | 446.63 | 895 | 12.80 | 2.87 |
| Colorado (1,4,9-15,20,23,27) | 107,660 | 2,641 | 245.31 | 52 | 4.83 | 1.97 |
| Connecticut (1,4,9,11,21,26,30) | 60,964 | 2,601 | 426.65 | 67 | 10.99 | 2.58 |
| Delaware (1,9,22,23,28) | 8,124 | 310 | 381.59 | 6 | 7.39 | 1.94 |
| District of Columbia (8,16,22,26,30) | 2,758 | 507* | 1,838.29 | 5* | 18.13 | 0.99 |
| Florida (8,16,22,26,30) | 216,025* | 10,084 | 466.80 | 270 | 12.50 | 2.68 |
| Georgia (1-5,9-13,15,19,23,30) | 84,543 | 3,040 | 359.58 | 80 | 9.46 | 2.63 |
| Hawaii (1,4,9-13,19,23,28) | 11,055 | 441 | 398.91 | 10 | 9.05 | 2.27 |
| Idaho (1,2,4,5,9,11,19,23,27) | 47,019 | 809 | 172.06 | 27 | 5.74 | 3.34 |
| Illinois (1,2,4,9,10,12,19,23,27) | 250,829 | 8,108 | 323.25 | 187 | 7.46 | 2.31 |
| Indiana (1-5,7,9-13,15,18,26,30) | 135,729 | 3,951 | 291.09 | 128 | 9.43 | 3.24 |
| Iowa (8,16,20,23,27) | 172,444 | 1,905 | 110.47 | 54 | 3.13 | 2.83 |
| Kansas (1,2,5,9-13,15,20,23,27) | 73,890 | 1,644 | 222.49 | 43 | 5.82 | 2.62 |
| Kentucky (1,6,9,10,14,18,26,27) | 38,497 | 1,664 | 432.24 | 46 | 11.95 | 2.76 |
| Louisiana (1,2,4,6,9,10,12,14,18,26,27) | 89,700 | 1,785 | 199.00 | 65 | 7.25 | 3.64 |
| Maine (1,9,19,23,27) | 37,246 | 926 | 248.62 | 19 | 5.10 | 2.05 |
| Maryland (1,4,9,11,12,22,23,27) | 74,891 | 2,823 | 376.95 | 84 | 11.22 | 2.98 |
| Massachusetts (1,9,21,26,27) | 85,000 | 5,148* | 605.65 | 57 | 6.71 | 1.11 |
| Michigan (1,4,9-12,18,23,28) | 185,993 | 5,617 | 302.00 | 103 | 5.54 | 1.83 |
| Minnesota (1,4,5,9,20,23,30) | 141,261 | 2,318 | 164.09 | 66 | 4.67 | 2.85 |
| Mississippi (1-5,7,9-11,19,25,27) | 28,198 | 814 | 288.67 | 30 | 10.64 | 3.69 |
| Missouri (1,6,9,11,12,14,15,20,23,27) | 78,533 | 2,525 | 321.52 | 61 | 7.77 | 2.42 |
| Montana (1,9,19,23,30) | 27,493 | 436 | 158.59 | 16 | 5.82 | 3.67 |
| Nebraska (1,4,5,9-13,15,20,23,30) | 33,077 | 970 | 293.26 | 24 | 7.26 | 2.47 |
| Nevada (8,9,22,23,28) | 18,899 | 611 | 323.30 | 19 | 10.05 | 3.11 |
| New Hampshire (1,9,11,22,26,30) | 36,007 | 969 | 269.11 | 28 | 7.78 | 2.89 |
| New Jersey (8,16,22,26,30) | 116,602* | 4,699* | 402.99 | 68 | 5.83 | 1.45 |
| New Mexico (1-4,9-12,15,19,23,27) | 42,152 | 1,693 | 401.64 | 50 | 11.86 | 2.95 |
| New York (1,3,4,6,9,11,14,15,21,23,27) | 214,893 | 7,125 | 331.56 | 193 | 8.98 | 2.71 |
| North Carolina (1,9,20,23,30) | 64,129 | 2,750 | 428.82 | 94 | 14.66 | 3.42 |
| North Dakota (1,3,4,9,11,12,21,25,28) | 28,118 | 286 | 101.71 | 7 | 2.49 | 2.45 |
| Ohio (8,9,11,12,18,23,27) | 304,128 | 7,246 | 238.25 | 214 | 7.04 | 2.95 |
| Oklahoma (1,3-5,9,11-13,17,25,30) | 68,093 | 1,917 | 281.53 | 61 | 8.96 | 3.18 |
| Oregon (1,9-13,15,20,25,27) | 87,105 | 1,749 | 200.79 | 79 | 9.07 | 4.52 |
| Pennsylvania (1,2,7,9-13,15,22,26,30) | 190,345 | 4,920 | 258.48 | 160 | 8.41 | 3.25 |
| Rhode Island (1,2,9-15,19,23,27) | 27,155 | 320* | 117.84 | 21 | 7.73 | 6.56 |
| South Carolina (1,4,7,9,12,14,18,23,30) | 36,074 | 2,284 | 633.14 | 76 | 21.07 | 3.33 |
| South Dakota (1-3,5,7,9-13,20,26,30) | 36,036 | 475 | 131.81 | 11 | 3.05 | 2.32 |
| Tennessee (1,3-5,7,9,10,12,18,23,30) | 114,071 | 2,819 | 247.13 | 89 | 7.80 | 3.16 |
| Texas (1,2,4-6,9-14,19,26,27) | 248,715 | 10,423 | 419.07 | 412 | 16.57 | 3.95 |
| Utah (1,2,4,9,11,20,25,30) | 53,000 | 1,411 | 266.23 | 31 | 5.85 | 2.20 |
| Vermont (1,2,4,5,9,13,20,23,30) | 23,048 | 405* | 175.72 | 6 | 2.60 | 1.48 |
| Virginia (1,4,9,12,20,23,28) | 79,037 | 2,602 | 329.21 | 85 | 10.75 | 3.27 |
| Washington (1,9,19,23,27) | 122,751 | 3,508 | 285.78 | 80 | 6.52 | 2.28 |
| West Virginia (1,2,9,10,22,23,30) | 31,992 | 813 | 254.13 | 26 | 8.13 | 3.20 |
| Wisconsin (1,2,4,9-13,20,23,30) | 186,020 | 3,800 | 204.28 | 104 | 5.59 | 2.74 |
| Wyoming (1-4,9-13,20,23,28) | 21,500 | 307 | 142.79 | 13 | 6.05 | 4.23 |
| National Data: | | | | | | |
| 1976 | 4,971,290 | 150,583 | 302.91 | 3,330 | 6.70 | 2.21 |
| 1981 | 5,617,297 | 174,948 | 311.45 | 4,844 | 8.62 | 2.77 |
| 1986 | 5,023,780 | 163,382 | 325.22 | 4,505 | 8.97 | 2.76 |

*Estimated

**Footnotes**

**Registrations: (vehicle types included)**

1. Street-legal motorcycles
2. Mopeds and other motorized bicycles of 50cc or less
3. Off-road motorcycles
4. Scooters
5. 3 or 4-wheeled all-terrain vehicles (sometimes known as ATVs or ATCs)
6. Other types of vehicles
7. Title only, no street registration (license plate) issued
8. Description not available

**Accidents: (vehicle types included)**

9. Street-legal motorcycles
10. Mopeds and other motorized bicycles of 50cc or less
11. Off-road motorcycles
12. Scooters
13. 3 or 4-wheeled all-terrain vehicles (sometimes known as ATVs or ATCs)
14. Other types of vehicles
15. Title only, no street registration (license plate) issued
16. Description not available

**Accident-Damage Threshold**

17. $0-$50 property damage threshold
18. $100-$200 property damage threshold
19. $250-$350 property damage threshold
20. $400-$500 property damage threshold
21. $800-$1,000 property damage threshold
22. No property damage figure specified/available

**Accident-Description:**

23. Accident where motorcycle property damage, personal injury or fatality occurs on public streets/highways
24. Accident where motorcycle property damage, personal injury or fatality occurs on non public or public streets/highways
25. Accident where motorcycle property damage, personal injury or fatality occurs on non public or public streets/highways or in off-road use
26. Other/Not available

**Fatalities:**

27. Number of motorcyclists, passengers, and others (such as pedestrians) fatally injured in a motorcycle accident
28. Number of motorcyclists and passengers fatally injured in a motorcycle accident
29. Motorcycle operators only
30. Other/Not available